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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W
----------070810 102345Z /66
R 101434Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7082
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 708

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: STATUS OF WINDHOEK NEWSPAPERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 696,

1. KURT DAHLMANN, EDITOR OF WINDHOEK'S GERMAN DAILY NEWSPAPER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, CONFIRMED FOR US ON APRIL 10 THAT OWNER JOHN MEINERT HAD NOT YET SOLD EITHER THE ZEITUNG OR WINDHOEK'S ONLY OTHER INDEPENDENT DAILY, THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER. DAHLMANN, WHO HAD JUST COME BACK FROM A TRIP TO EUROPE WHERE HE HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO RAISE FUNDS TO PURCHASE HIS NEWSPAPER, SAID THAT HE RETURNED TO FIND THAT NOT ONLY THE NEWSPAPERS, BUT MEINERT'S ENTIRE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING PRINTING WORKS AND BUILDINGS, WAS UP FOR SALE AT A PRICE OF ABOUT R2 MILLION (R1 EQUALS $1.15). DAHLMANN HAD EVIDENTLY RAISED ENOUGH TO COVER THIS, BUT MEINERT WAS NOT INSISTING THAT THE PURCHASE MONEY
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MUST NOT ORIGINATE FROM "UNACCEPTABLE SOURCES." AT THE SAME TIME, DAHLMANN SAID, MEINERT WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SELLING DIRECTLY TO THE OTHER BIDDER, THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE (DTA), AND PREFERRED TO KEEP THE NEWSPAPERS INDEPENDENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

2. AS THE SITUATION NOW STANDS, DAHLMANN SAID, HE HAS

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UNTIL APRIL 20 TO SHOW THAT HE HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS
FROM AN "ACCEPTABLE SOURCE" (I.E., SWAPO OR THE CHURCHES) TO
PURCHASE THE NEWSPAPERS. IF NOT, HE SAID, THEY WOULD PROBABLY
BE SOLD TO AN "INDEPENDENT BUYER," WHO WAS IN REALITY A "FRONT
MAN" REPRESENTING THE CONSERVATIVE FRG OPPOSITION PARTY CDU.
UNDER THIS SET-UP , HE ASSERTED, THE TWO PAPERS WOULD REMAIN
INDEPENDENT, BUT COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A PRO-DTA LINE.

3. DAHLMANN COMMENTED THAT WHILE IN GERMANY HE HAD MET
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, WHO HAD TOLD HIM
HE WAS PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE CDU TO TAKE A MORE
BALANCED APPROACH TO NAMIBIA AND CURATIL ITS FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR DTA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780476/aaaacmcq.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 CAPE TOWN 696
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3024366
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